

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

VOITH FABRICS PATENT GMBH
Sankt Pöltener Str. 43
D-89522 Heidenheim
GERMANY

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY ON THE DECLARATION

Patentabteilung

29. Nov. 2004

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

29/11/2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PT11701 WO

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/052224

International filing date
(day/month/year)

17/09/2004

Applicant

VOITH FABRICS PATENT GMBH

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.
3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90*bis*.1 and 90*bis*.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until **30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Authorized officer

Maria Zinburgova

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PT11701 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION <small>see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</small>	
International application No. PCT/EP2004/052224	International filing date (day/month/year) 17/09/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 26/09/2003
Applicant VOITH FABRICS PATENT GMBH		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/052224

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A machine for the manufacture of a fiber material web (12), in particular a paper or card web, having a forming zone including at least one circulating endless dewatering belt (16, 18) includes at least one pressing zone (14) combined with a suction system.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/052224

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 D21F9/00 D21F3/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 D21F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 144 124 A (TURUNEN RISTO ET AL) 13 March 1979 (1979-03-13) column 4, line 15 - column 7, line 33 figure -----	1-6, 17-19, 23-25, 29, 34
X	US 6 340 413 B1 (NILSSON GOERAN ET AL) 22 January 2002 (2002-01-22) column 4, line 40 - column 6, line 26 column 9, line 6 - line 34 figures 1-3 ----- -/--	1-7, 18, 19, 24, 29, 34, 36, 37, 39



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

29/11/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Authorized officer

Maisonnier, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/052224

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99/40255 A (VALMET KARLSTAD AB) 12 August 1999 (1999-08-12) page 5, line 29 - page 9, line 18 page 14, line 34 - page 15, line 6 figures 1,4 -----	1-6, 16-21, 24,25, 29,34
X	DE 17 61 505 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 1 July 1971 (1971-07-01) page 3, line 15 - page 17, line 20 figures 1,3 -----	1-6,18, 19, 23-25,34
X	US 4 139 410 A (TAPIO OLLI ET AL) 13 February 1979 (1979-02-13) column 3, line 42 - column 6, line 7 figure -----	1,3-5, 17,23, 24,34
X	US 6 334 932 B1 (MESCHENMOSER ANDREAS) 1 January 2002 (2002-01-01) column 6, line 23 - column 7, line 53 figure 1 -----	1,4,5,16

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/052224

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4144124	A	13-03-1979	FI 770610 A BR 7801061 A CA 1092403 A1 DE 2806169 A1 DE 7804306 U1 GB 1577273 A JP 53106808 A NO 770896 A SE 7702841 A	25-08-1978 19-09-1978 30-12-1980 31-08-1978 22-01-1981 22-10-1980 18-09-1978 25-08-1978 24-08-1978
US 6340413	B1	22-01-2002	SE 511736 C2 AU 732296 B2 AU 3179099 A BR 9909062 A CA 2323621 A1 CN 1294646 T EP 1078126 A1 ID 23724 A JP 2002507673 T NO 20004604 A SE 9800947 A WO 9949131 A1 TW 555921 B ZA 200004631 A	15-11-1999 12-04-2001 18-10-1999 14-11-2000 30-09-1999 09-05-2001 28-02-2001 11-05-2000 12-03-2002 17-11-2000 21-09-1999 30-09-1999 01-10-2003 30-08-2001
WO 9940255	A	12-08-1999	SE 511485 C2 SE 9800308 A WO 9940255 A1	04-10-1999 05-08-1999 12-08-1999
DE 1761505	A	01-07-1971	DE 1761505 A1	01-07-1971
US 4139410	A	13-02-1979	NONE	
US 6334932	B1	01-01-2002	DE 19902139 A1 EP 1022380 A2	27-07-2000 26-07-2000

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/052224

International filing date (day/month/year)
17.09.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
26.09.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
D21F9/00, D21F3/02

Applicant
VOITH FABRICS PATENT GMBH

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/052224

IAP20 Received 22 MAR 2006

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/052224

Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:

- ☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).
- ☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	8-15,22,26-28,30-33,35,38,40-42
	No: Claims	1-7,16-21,23-25,29,34,36,37,39
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-42
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-42
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

PCT/EP2004/052224

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 4 144 124 A
D2: US 6 340 413 B
D3: WO 99/40255 A
D4: DE 1 761 505 A
D5: US 4 139 410 A
D6: US 6 334 932 B
2. The present claims do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT for the following reasons.
 - 2.1. In Claim 9, it is not clear what is meant by "conventional screen", nor by "non-structured screen".
 - 2.2. In Claim 10, it is not clear what is meant by "structured screen".
 - 2.3. In Claim 11, it is not clear which structural features the further dewatering belt should present to be a "TAD screen".
 - 2.4. In Claim 12, it is not clear what is meant by "DSP screen".
 - 2.5. In Claim 16, it is not clear what is meant by "longitudinal" gap.
It should have been made clear that the pressing zone forms a gap extended in the web running direction through which gap the web is passed (see page 9, lines 24-26 and Fig. 1).
 - 2.6. In Claims 23, 24 and 34, it is not clear which structural features the machine should exhibit to perform the fonctions defined in these claims, the more so since it is not clear how a nip can be formed between a dryer cylinder and a counter roll if the nip is not closed.
 - 2.7. The dependency of claims 6, 10-15, 17-19, 21, 23-30, 34-36, 39, 40 and 42 is not correct.
3. Moreover, insofar as it can be understood the subject-matter of Claims 1 to 42 does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT for the following reasons.

- 3.1. Document D1 (see column 4, line 15 - column 7, line 33; Fig.) discloses a machine for the manufacture of a fiber material web having a forming region including at least one circulating, endless, dewatering belt (11, 12), which machine includes at least one pressing zone (N1, N2) combined with a suction system (22 α , 22 β).

Hence, the subject-matter of Claim 1 is not new (Articles 33(1) and 33(2) PCT).

- 3.2. Moreover, Document D1 is also novelty-destroying for the subject-matter of dependent Claims 2-6, 17-19, 23-25, 29 and 34 (Articles 33(1) and 33(2) PCT).

- 3.3. Furthermore, the following documents are also novelty-destroying for the following claims:

- Document D2 (see column 4, line 40 - column 6, line 26; column 9, lines 6-34; Fig. 1-3):

- Claims 1-7, 18, 19, 24, 29, 34, 36, 37, 39;

- Document D3 (see page 5, line 29 - page 9, line 18; page 14, line 34 - page 15, line 6; Fig. 1 and 4):

- Claims 1-6, 16-21, 24, 25, 29, 34;

- Document D4 (see page 3, line 15 - page 17, line 20; Fig. 1 and 3):

- Claims 1-6, 18, 19, 23-25, 34;

- Document D5 (see column 3, line 42 - column 6, line 7; Fig.):

- Claims 1, 3-5, 17, 23, 24, 34; and

- Document D6 (see column 6, line 23 - column 7, line 53; Fig. 1):

- Claims 1, 4, 5, 16.

- 3.4. Dependent Claims 8-15, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, 38 and 40-42 do not appear to contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the EPC with respect to inventive step, the essential additional features of Claims 8-15, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, 38 and 40-42 being already suggested by Documents D1 to D6.

Thus, the subject-matter of Claims 8-15, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, 38 and 40-42 cannot be considered to involve an inventive step (Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT).

4. The following points are moreover to be noted.

- 4.1. The two-part form of independent Claim 1 is not correct (Rule 6.3(b) PCT).

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/052224

- 4.2. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in Documents D1 to D6 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.